

**Remarks of Governor Christine Todd Whitman,
Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
to the
13th Annual Energy Efficiency Forum
Washington, D.C.**

June 12, 2002

Thank you, Barry (Worthington), and good morning.

Just three weeks ago, Secretary Abraham and I helped mark the first anniversary of the introduction of President Bush's comprehensive national energy plan. There was a lot to celebrate. The vast majority of the proposals contained in the President's plan have either been completed or are near completion.

Because of actions taken over the past 12 months, America's energy future is brighter today than it was a year ago. And, I am pleased to report that the progress we have made has not come at the expense of the environment. Indeed, the past year proves that energy production, economic prosperity, and environmental protection can all go hand in hand.

A key component of the President's National Energy Policy is promoting energy conservation and efficiency. For more than a decade, EPA's Energy Star program has helped lead the way in educating Americans about the importance of energy efficiency and motivating business to increase the energy efficiency of their products and practices.

Millions of consumers have bought Energy Star products for their homes – everything from dishwashers to dehumidifiers, computers to ceiling fans. At the same time, thousands of businesses have partnered with Energy Star to help meet their responsibilities as good corporate citizens and environmental stewards.

In just the last year alone, thanks to Energy Star, Americans saved more than \$5 billion in energy costs and reduced pollution equivalent to removing 10 millions cars from the road. The long-standing success of this program is why the President asked EPA to expand its reach and its results.

Over the past year, Energy Star has gone where no energy efficiency program has ever gone before. We expanded our energy performance ratings to include supermarkets and hospitals. We saw scores more products earn the Energy Star label. And we launched a major public outreach effort to promote Energy Star across the country.

Energy Star is one of those rare government programs that actually exceeds expectations time and again. It's become a program of perpetual improvement, and today I am here to

announce several new improvements that will further brighten the luster of the Energy Star.

As I mentioned a moment ago, an important part of Energy Star is our energy performance ratings for various buildings. As of today, more than 10,000 buildings across America have benchmarked their energy performance against their peers. Of those, more than 800 have earned the Energy Star distinction, which means they use about 40 percent less energy than average buildings, without any compromise in comfort or convenience.

Of course, there's always room for more. That's why today I am pleased to announce to we are expanding our energy performance ratings to include the hotel industry. Thanks to a cooperative effort among EPA and some of the leading hotel operators in the country, we have developed a benchmarking tool for hotels.

The hotel industry spends more than \$5 billion on energy costs every year. So just imagine the savings if every hotel in America were to begin reduce their energy usage by as little as 10 percent. Those dollars would be equal to the energy needed to run 1 million hotel hair dryers for an hour a day for 11 years. That's a lot of hot air – even by Washington standards.

Hotels are always working to earn another star – and I'm delighted to announce the first two hotels that have earned the Energy Star. They are Courtyard Indianapolis at the Capital and the Sheraton Boston Hotel. Congratulations to these two hotels. I hope that in the years ahead, the Energy Star will become every bit as coveted as fifth star from Mobil.

As you know, our focus on improving energy efficiency in buildings to date has been concentrated on commercial buildings – office complexes, hospitals, schools, grocery stores, and now hotels. So now, I am pleased to make another Energy Star announcement – the expansion of energy performance indicator tools to include manufacturing plants. The first sector for which we've developed these new performance indicators is automobile assembly plants.

America's industrial manufacturers use tremendous amounts of energy. That's no surprise – it's a reflection on the strength of American industry. And there's no doubt that as our industrial output has grown, manufacturers have done much to increase energy efficiency and adopt more environmentally friendly manufacturing practices.

I believe, however, that American manufacturers are ready to take this progress to the next level – and as experience has shown, Energy Star is the best available tool to help them build on what they have already done.

These new automobile assembly plant indicators are the first in what I hope will be a long line of new Energy Star tools that will improve energy efficiency across a broad spectrum of manufacturing facilities. I want to thank both General Motors and the Ford Motor Company for helping us drive over some new terrain in the Energy Star program.

I also want to take just a moment to highlight another voluntary partnership EPA is promoting to help protect our environment – our new Climate Leaders program.

This program – which calls on companies to voluntarily reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases, complements the President’s commitment to reduce greenhouse gas intensity of the U.S. economy by 18% in the next 10 years.

The President’s policy – which I believe is protective of both the environment and the economy – will increase America’s commitment to climate science and technology, and includes new incentives for businesses that invest in cleaner technologies and sensible greenhouse gas mitigation and sequestration strategies.

The President’s initiative also calls for EPA to work with the Department of Energy to develop a greenhouse gas registry that will improve our ability to accurately measure and verify greenhouse gas emissions and protect businesses that register voluntary reductions from being penalized under any future climate policy.

When President Bush committed the United States to this plan, he knew that it would take a heavy reliance on partnerships to achieve our goal. The new Climate Leaders program is exactly what he had in mind.

Through Climate Leaders, companies will work with EPA to evaluate how much greenhouse gas they currently produce throughout their organization, set aggressive reduction goals, and report their progress. In addition, interested companies can report these reductions to the registry, and get credit for emissions reductions in the future.

To date, some 20 corporate partners have signed on as Climate Leaders, but we are always looking for more recruits. So if your company is not yet a Climate Leader, I invite you to become one.

When this forum met for the first time 12 years ago, the energy efficiency landscape looked much different than it does today. Over the intervening years, we’ve seen attitudes change – both on the part of government and of business. The result of these changes has been good for both – but most important, its been good for the environment and the American people.

I believe that programs such as Energy Star – and now Climate Leaders – have helped make clear just how wrong is the old idea that environmental protection is a zero sum game for business. Doing the right thing for the environment is also the right thing for the bottom line.

So please accept my thanks for all you have done and are doing to promote increased energy efficiency and the environmental protection that accompanies it.

Thank you.